

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01301 282112Z

64

ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 1301

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CPRS, CI

SUBJECT: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS CHILEAN NATIONAL MIRTHA COMPAGNET

GODOY AND REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OF ALEX COMPAGNET GODOY

REF: SANTIAGO 0880 AND PREVIOUS

1. MARITSA AND HER BROTHER ALEX COMPAGNET GODOY CAME TO EMBASSY FEB. 27 WITH NEWS THAT MIRTHA COMPAGNET HAS BEEN LOCATED IN TRES ALAMOS DETENTION FACILITY IN SANTIAGO. FAMILY LEARNED OF WHEREABOUTS NOT FROM GOC BUT FROM CLANDESTINE "GRAPEVINE" WHICH PASSES NEWS ABOUT DETAINEES. MARITSA SAW MIRTHA AT TRES ALAMOS FEB. 25. MIRTHA CLAIMED TO HER THAT SHE HAD BEEN HELD BY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA) FOR QUESTIONING REGARDING ACTIVITIES HER FIANCÉ AND FOR HER OWN CONNECTION WITH "LEFTIST SCHOOL" IN VALPARAISO BEFORE MILITARY COUP OF SEPT. 1973. SHE STATED TO SISTER THAT SHE HAD BEEN TORTURED BY DINA WITH ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND OTHER MEANS, AND ACCORDING MARITSA BEARS RESULTING MARKS ON BODY. SHE TOLD FAMILY DINA HELD HER TEN DAYS AFTER INTERROGATION ENDED TO IMPROVE HER PHYSICAL CONDITION BEFORE TURNING HER OVER TO TRES ALAMOS. PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS APPARENTLY SATISFACTORY.

2. MIRTHA TOLD FAMILY THAT GOC EVIDENTLY PLANS TO PLACE NO RPT NO CHARGES AGAINST HER, AND THAT SHE WILL BE EXILED

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01301 282112Z

FROM CHILE IF PLACE FOUND FOR HER. AT MOMENT SHE UNDERSTANDS

DUTCH ARE NEGOTIATING WITH GOC TO TAKE ALL (AND ONLY) WOMEN IN POLITICAL PRISONER CATEGORY, AND SHE HOPES TO BE INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP. (COMMENT: WE CANNOT CONFIRM DUTCH INITIATIVE. END COMMENT). MARITSA AND ALEX ASKED IF US COULD OFFER TO TAKE HER, AND WERE TOLD THAT US HAS NO PROGRAM OF THIS NATURE. FAMILY WILL SEE FRENCH CONSUL NEXT GIVEN FRENCH EMBASSY INTEREST IN HER CASE (REFTELS).

3. AFTER DISCUSSING MIRTHA, BROTHER ALEX STATED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED FOR OWN SAFETY. HE WAS OUT OF CHILE (IN US AND GERMANY) DURING MOST OF ALLENDE PERIOD, AND HAS BEEN BACK IN CHILE ONLY ABOUT SIX MONTHS. DINA INTERROGATORS QUESTIONED MIRTHA INTENSIVELY ABOUT HIM, AND HE IS CONVINCED HE IS SUSPECT (HE DID NOT COMMENT ON ANY SUBSTANCE THERE MIGHT BE TO DINA SUSPICIONS.) HE WOULD LEAVE CHILE NOW BUT IS AFRAID OF ARREST IF HE APPLIES FOR EXIT. HE IS "NOT EXACTLY HIDING" BUT HAS NOT BEEN LIVING AT HOME. HE ASKED IF US EMBASSY WOULD GIVE HIM ASYLUM. EMBOFF INFORMED HIM OF US POLICY ON ASYLUM, AND HE DID NOT PRESS SUBJECT. HE THEN ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD INTERVENE WITH ANOTHER EMBASSY TO GIVE HIM ASYLUM, OR RECOMMEND WHICH EMBASSIES HE COULD MOST EASILY APPROACH (I.E. TO AVOID CAPTURE BY POLICE GUARDS). WE DECLINED EITHER TO INTERVENE OR TO PROVIDE SUCH ADVICE. WE SUSPECT HE MAY WELL TRY FRENCH NEXT.

4. EMBASSY HAS NOT HAD RESPONSE YET THROUGH INFORMAL FONMIN CHANNEL (REFTEL), BUT PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES REPLY ON MIRTHA MAY SOON BE FORTHCOMING, AS SHE HAS NOW "SURFACED" IN TRES ALAMOS.

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